

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BELGRA 01101 232202Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 SAJ-01 /077 W
-----232214 017849 /70

R 231358Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9666
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
RUQMDIXAMEMBASSY MOGODISCIO 12
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 1101

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, ET, LY, SU, YO
SUBJECT: GOY MEDIATION EFFORT IN SUDANESE-ETHIOPIAN DISPUTE

REF: A. KHARTOUM 528 (NOTAL)
B. BELGRADE 838 (NOTAL)
C. KHARTOUM 329

1. RADIO BELGRADE ANNOUNCED FEB 22 THAT ETHIOPIAN "VICE PRES"
ABATE WILL PAY "FRIENDLY AND OFFICIAL" VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA
FEB 24-28. THOUGH REPORTED SUBJECT OF COMING TALKS LIMITED
TO "BILATERAL RELATIONS AND CURRENT INTERNATIONAL MATTERS",
CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE DEVOTED TO
ERITREAN SITUATION AND ETHIOPIAN-SUDANESE DISPUTE. ABATE
VISIT APPEARS A CONTINUATION OF GOY EFFORT TO MEDIATE BETWEEN
EPMG AND KHARTOUM, AN EFFORT MOST RECENTLY EVIDENCED IN
FONSEC MINIC'S JAN 22-25 VISIT TO ADDIS (REF B), MINIC'S
FEB 14 STOP AT KHARTOUM AIRPORT FOR BRIEF TALKS WITH
ACTING SUDANESE FONMIN DENG (REF A) AND FEB 16 STATE-
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BELGRA 01101 232202Z

MENT BY SUDANESE FOMIN SAID (REPORTED BY UPI, CAIRO)
WELCOMING MEDIATION EFFORT BY "FRIENDLY" YUGOSLAVIA.

2. IN VIEW OF SAID'S FEB 16 STATEMENT AND TO FIND OUT
HOW SUDANESE HERE APPRAISE NOT ONLY THEIR RELATIONS
WITH GOY BUT YUGOSLAV-ETHIOPIAN TIES, EMBOFF CALLED ON
SUDANESE EMBOFF AHMED SALIH FEB 18. SALIH, WHO WORKED

IN FOMINISTRY IN KHARTOUM PRIOR ASSIGNMENT TO BELGRADE ONE MONTH AGO, SAID IMMEDIATE FOCUS OF GOY'S EFFORT APPEARS TO BE ON CONVINCING THE DIRGUE OF THE NECESSITY OF GRANTING THE ERITREANS A LARGE DEGREE OF AUTONOMY, ALBIET WITHIN ETHIOPIAN STATE. THE ERITREANS, SALIH CLAIMED, ARE AT PRESENT PREPARED TO ACCEPT A "FEDERAL" RELATIONSHIP WITH ADDIS OF AFOREMENTIONED TYPE. THE FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEM HAS BEEN ADAMANT OPPOSITION OF VARIOUS MEMBERS OF THE DIRGUE TO ANY SIGNIFICANT CONCESSION TO THE ERITREANS, BUT, HE ADDED, THERE HAS OF LATE BEEN POSITIVE MOVEMENT WITHIN THE DIRGUE TOWARD RECONGINITION OF FACT THAT RESOLUTION OF PROBLEM DEMANDS GRANT OF SUBSTANTIAL AUTONOMY TO ERITREANS. SALIH AVERRED THAT RELATIVE INTENSITY OF RECENT YUGOSLAV ACTIVITY IS BASED ON GOY'S PERCEPTION THAT BALANCE OF POWER IN THE AREA, NECESSARY FOR ITS STABILITY, IS PRECARIOUS AT BEST AND TIPPING AGAINST THE ETHIOPIANS. SALIH APPEARED CONCERNED THAT YUGOSLAV-ETHIOPIAN RELATIONS MIGHT IN FACT BE SERVING AS CONDUIT FOR INCREASING SOVIET INFLUENCE IN ETHIOPIA.

3. ON THE SUBJECT RAISED IN REF C, I.E., "POSSIBLE YUGOSLAV ARMS TO ANSAR EXILES", SALIH SAID ANSAR REBELS' SMALL ARMS ARE OF DIVERSE ORIGIN THROGH COME MAINLY FROM WESTERN EUROPE. HE NOTED THAT SUCH WEAPONS ARE READILY AVAILABLE TO ANSARS THROUGH INDEPENDENT "ARMS MERCHANTS". SALIH IMPLIED ANSARS ARE VIRTUALLY SWIMMING IN LIBYAN FUNDS. HEAVY ARMAMENTS, HE ADDED, ARE OF SOVIET MAKE AND PROVIDED BY AND THROUGH LIBYA. CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BELGRA 01101 232202Z

SAILH SAID HE DOUBTED ANY SIZEABLE NUMBER OF ANSAR WEAPONS WERE OF YUGOSLAV ORIGIN, CLAIMING THAT NONE OF ANSAR WEAPONS CONFISCATED IN WAKE OF LAST SUMMER'S UNSUCCESSFUL COUP ATTEMPT IN KHARTOUM WERE YUGOSLAV. HE BELIEVED GOY ASSISTANCE TO EPMG IS ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL AND DEVOID OF ANY SIGNIFICANT MILITARY COMPONENT. LATTER COMMENT IS IN CONTRAST TO THAT OF ETHIOPIAN DIP HERE REPORTED REF B, PARA 5.

4. COMMENT: WHETHER SUDANESE ARE SUSPICIOUS THAT YUGOSLAVIA'S ACTIVE INTEREST IN ETHIOPIA OF LATE MAY HAVE SOME SOVIET CONNECTION WE WOULD, OF COURSE, LEAVE TO KHARTOUM'S JUDGMENT. THAT SUCH A CONNECTION IN FACT EXISTS WE CONSIDER DOUBTFUL. WHILE YUGOSLAVS UNDOUBTEDLY WISH TO INCREASE "PROGRESSIVE", SOCIALIST INFLUENCE IN THE HORN, WE SUSPECT THEY WOULD NOT ENCOURAGE GROWTH IN SOVIET PRESENCE PER SE. YORK

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 23-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BELGRA01101
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770063-0286
Format: TEL
From: BELGRADE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770219/aaaaaqpq.tel
Line Count: 115
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: d1d060c3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 KHARTOUM 528, 77 BELGRADE 838, 77 KHARTOUM 329
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3257576
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOY MEDIATION EFFORT IN SUDANESE-ETHIOPIAN DISPUTE
TAGS: PFOR, ET, LY, SU, YO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d1d060c3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009